

**§ 1203.203 Degree of protection.**

(a) *General.* Upon determination that information or material must be classified, the degree of protection commensurate with the sensitivity of the information must be determined. If there is reasonable doubt about the need to classify information, it shall be safeguarded as if it were classified pending a determination by an original classification authority, who shall make this determination within 30 days. If there is reasonable doubt about the appropriate level of classification, it shall be safeguarded at the higher level of classification pending a determination by an original classification authority, who shall make this determination within 30 days.

(b) *Authorized categories of classification.* The three categories of classification, as authorized and defined in “the Order,” are set out below. No other restrictive markings are authorized to be placed on NASA classified documents or materials except as expressly provided by statute or by NASA Directives.

(1) *Top Secret.* Top Secret is the designation applied to information or material, the unauthorized disclosure of which could reasonably be expected to cause exceptionally grave damage to the national security.

(2) *Secret.* Secret is the designation applied to information or material, the unauthorized disclosure of which could reasonably be expected to cause serious damage to the national security.

(3) *Confidential.* Confidential is the designation applied to that information or material for which the unauthorized disclosure could reasonably be expected to cause damage to the national security.

[44 FR 34913, June 18, 1979, as amended at 48 FR 5890, Feb. 9, 1983; 78 FR 5117, Jan. 24, 2013]

### **Subpart C—Classification Principles and Considerations**

**§ 1203.300 General.**

In general, the types of NASA-generated information and material requiring protection in the interest of national security lie in the areas of applied research, technology or operations.

**§ 1203.301 Identification of information requiring protection.**

Classifiers shall identify the level of classification of each classified portion of a document (including subject and titles), and those portions that are not classified.

**§ 1203.302 Compilation.**

A compilation of items that are individually unclassified may be classified if the compiled information reveals an additional association or relationship that meets the standards of classification under the Order; and is not otherwise revealed in the individual items of information. As used in the Order, compilations mean an aggregate of pre-existing unclassified items of information.

[78 FR 5118, Jan. 24, 2013]

**§ 1203.303 Distribution controls.**

NASA shall establish controls over the distribution of classified information to ensure that it is dispersed only to organizations or individuals eligible for access to such information and with a need-to-know the information.

[78 FR 5118, Jan. 24, 2013]

**§ 1203.304 Internal effect.**

The effect of security protection on program progress and cost and on other functional activities of NASA should be considered. Impeditive effects and added costs inherent in a security classification must be assessed and weighed against the detrimental effects on the national security interests which would result from failure to classify.

[44 FR 34913, June 18, 1979, as amended at 78 FR 5118, Jan. 24, 2013]

**§ 1203.305 Restricted data.**

Restricted Data or Formerly Restricted Data is so classified when originated or by operation of the law, as required by the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended. Specific guidance for the classification of Restricted Data and Formerly Restricted Data is provided in “Classification Guides”